

Fifty-two percent of women reported postponing or foregoing medical care because of cost. Only 39 percent of men report having had those experiences.

Nine States allow private plans to refuse coverage for domestic violence survivors.

Eighty-eight percent of private insurance plans do not cover comprehensive maternity care. In many policies, a previous C-section and being pregnant are considered preexisting conditions.

Less than half of all women in America have employer-sponsored insurance. This is partly due to the fact that more women tend to work for small businesses or have part-time jobs where health insurance is not offered.

Women matter. Health care reform matters. I urge my colleagues' support to change this broken system.

□ 1015

UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, over 8 months ago, Congress passed and the President signed a so-called "economic stimulus" bill which added nearly \$1 trillion to our national debt, and now we are told by this administration, as the White House Council of Economic Advisors recently said, that we can expect 10 percent unemployment through the end of next year and that the economic stimulus bill will contribute little to further economic growth. However, since then, over 3 million jobs have been lost, and the national unemployment rate has soared from 8.1 percent to a 26-year high of 9.8 percent.

State unemployment numbers from my home State of Florida in September continue to reveal the sad fact that since the stimulus passed, unemployment has now risen to 11 percent, which is a record-high level not experienced since 1975.

Today, the House of Representatives will vote on legislation to extend unemployment benefits to those individuals who are unable to find a job. I have supported extensions of these benefits in the past, and I am proud to do so again today.

REPUBLICAN HEALTH PLAN

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Unlike any other industry or business in America, the health insurance industry is exempt from antitrust laws. That means they can and they do collude to drive up your premiums, to exclude you from coverage, to rescind your policy, a whole host of abuses. We do have a little bit of State regulation, but the Republicans are going to take care of that. They're going to create a new

safe haven for insurance company abuses.

Insurance companies will be able to offer national plans—that's their big thing, yes—but they can choose any State in the 50 in which to base that plan. And no matter where you live and no matter what the laws are of your State, if you've got a problem—if they've denied you coverage, if they revoked your policy because you got sick, all the other abuses that go on every day within the insurance industry—if you live in Oregon, you'll have to be talking to the insurance commissioner in Delaware or Mississippi with your complaint. And guess what? They don't have consumer protections there for health insurance. The States will provide and compete, some States, the lowest common denominator, the least regulation to attract this great new business of abusive health insurers.

That's the Republican plan. They're always delivering for their buddies in the health insurance industry while the payments roll in at campaign time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are limited to 1 minute and should heed the gavel.

PELOSI HEALTH CARE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, when I talk with constituents in my district, it's clear that more and more of the American people do not support the Pelosi plan for a government takeover of health care. Sadly, that will not stop liberal Democrats from pushing forward with the Pelosi plan anyway.

Buried in the 1,990-page bill are more than \$700 billion in new taxes on small businesses and individuals and employers who can't afford health care. The Pelosi health care plan also includes more than 100 new bureaucracies, boards, commissions, and programs. What it does not include is coverage for 29 million of the 30 million people that Pelosi and President Obama say need health insurance. They will still not be covered by this huge tax increase and increased bureaucracy.

We need to reject the Pelosi health plan—it is a tax increase masquerading as a health plan—and take up the Republican alternative, which covers everyone.

HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, America knows that we live with a health care contradiction: some of the best hospitals and doctors in the world providing health care to those who have

access to the best health care in the world, but a health care system that also shuts the door of access to 47 million Americans with exploding costs, putting a punishing financial burden on our middle class and on our businesses that are hanging on to their health care by their fingernails.

This system has worked very well for the insurance companies—unregulated, unsupervised, and unapologetic—but they have plundered the wallets of families and the profits of businesses to record record profits. That, Mr. Speaker, is the status quo.

On Saturday, this House of Representatives will face a question that has eluded it for 60 years: Will we accept the status quo or turn the page and provide health care to all Americans?

Our health care legislation is going to do what needs to be done to take that first step, extend access to 36 million Americans, insurance reforms, and a public option.

WHAT'S IN THE HEALTH CARE PACKAGE?

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, if you want to know what's in a package, you ought to open it up and take a look at it.

Let me just talk about one thing that's in this package we're going to vote on on Saturday. It's in the area of tort reform, litigation reform, a subject that every single audience I've spoken to in my district has said should be in any bill, because right now the litigation system puts tremendous strain on our health care system, adding additional trillions of dollars.

What does this program do? It says that it's going to provide an opportunity for pilot projects. But if your State has on its books a law which says there will be any limitation on attorneys' fees or any limitation on damages, including noneconomic damages, you are ineligible to participate. So my State of California, which had medical malpractice reform 30 years ago, will be ineligible, will be punished.

We're not talking about the status quo on litigation reform; we're talking about going back 30 years. If that's in this package, what else is in this package?

HEALTH REFORM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of national health reform to help relieve the economic burden of rising health costs on small businesses.

Nationwide, 25 percent of the uninsured, 11 million people, are employees